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Announcement of ECB's Action to Fund Feasibility Study for NG 9-1-1 – Website

The Emergency Communications Board, in its April 20 board meeting, authorized a study to determine the feasibility of an IP based state-wide network. Voice over IP (VoIP) and other emerging technologies have and will continue to change the infrastructure requirements from the existing analog network that has been in place for over 30 years. Next Generation 9-1-1 is being designed to accommodate the many types of communication devices that we will see in the coming years. It is imperative that our state prepare for the challenge faced across our country to continue to receive and locate all callers in need of help from our public safety agencies.

In NENA's report on initial findings and recommendations, the following needs were identified:

- Improved natural disaster management, including the prevention of and response to potential terrorist actions.
- Full support of new communications and information technology for emergency services.
- Reduce the danger of viruses capable of generating automated 9-1-1 calls and overwhelming the network.
- Use and enhance increasingly available sources of information that are only readily available with a flexible, wide access, high bandwidth network.
- Improved accessibility and increased compatibility to ensure all Americans have access to the emergency response system, including those with disabilities.

The future Emergency Services Network will accommodate a flexible services infrastructure where applications can be defined and introduced without requiring major overhauls to existing network service providing elements.

L. Robert Kimball & Associates was chosen to conduct this study and will work closely with our own Director of Technical Services. The study will begin immediately and should be completed by September of this year.